

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-13 (Canceled).

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A polymer blend comprising two ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymers B1 and B2,

wherein said blend of B1 and B2 has a morphology in which particles of B2 are dispersed in B1, said ~~mixture~~ blend of B1 and B2 exhibits at least two crystal fusion peaks in its differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) and satisfies the following formulae (1) to (7):

$$60/40 \leq \text{WB1/WB2} \leq 90/10 \quad (1)$$

$$25 \leq \text{ETB1} \leq 40 \quad (2)$$

$$99 \leq \text{SDB1} \quad (3)$$

$$35 \leq \text{ETB2} \leq 48 \quad (4)$$

$$92 \leq \text{SDB2} \leq 99 \quad (5)$$

$$8 \leq \text{ETB2} - \text{ETB1} \leq 23 \quad (6)$$

$$1 \leq \text{SDB1} - \text{SDB2} \leq 8 \quad (7)$$

and,

WB1 is the amount by weight of B1 in the blend,

WB2 is the amount by weight of B2 in the blend,

ETB1 is the mol% ethylene in B1,

ETB2 is the mol% ethylene in B2,

SDB1 is the % saponification of B1, and

SDB2 is the % saponification of B2,

wherein the particles of B2 dispersed in B1 have a mean particle size of at most 0.8  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 15 (Canceled).

Claim 16 (Original): The polymer blend of Claim 14, wherein B1 and B2 have melt indices (in units of g/10 min, measured at 190 °C under a load of 2160 g) MIB1 and MIB2, respectively, which satisfy formula (8):

$$0.1 \leq \text{MIB1/MIB2} \leq 10 \quad (8).$$

Claim 17 (Original): The polymer blend of Claim 14, wherein the blend has a melt index MIB (in units of g/10 min, measured at 190 C under a load of 2160 g) which satisfies the following formula (10):

$$0.1 \leq \text{MIB} \leq 10 \quad (10).$$

Claim 18 (Withdrawn): A process for preparing a stretch-blow molded container comprising:

coinjection molding a preform, and

stretch-blow molding said preform, thereby forming a stretch-blow molded container,

wherein said preform comprises:

at least one layer comprising a thermoplastic polyester, and

at least one layer comprising a mixture of two ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymers B1 and B2,

wherein said mixture of B1 and B2 has a morphology in which particles of B2 are dispersed in B1, said mixture of B1 and B2 exhibits at least two crystal fusion peaks in its differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) and satisfies the following formulae (1) to (7):

$$60/40 \leq \text{WB1/WB2} \leq 90/10 \quad (1)$$

$$25 \leq \text{ETB1} \leq 40 \quad (2)$$

$$99 \leq \text{SDB1} \quad (3)$$

$$35 \leq \text{ETB2} \leq 48 \quad (4)$$

$$92 \leq \text{SDB2} \leq 99 \quad (5)$$

$$8 \leq \text{ETB2} - \text{ETB1} \leq 23 \quad (6)$$

$$1 \leq \text{SDB1} - \text{SDB2} \leq 8 \quad (7)$$

and,

WB1 is the amount by weight of B1 in the mixture,

WB2 is the amount by weight of B2 in the mixture,

ETB1 is the mol% ethylene in B1,

ETB2 is the mol% ethylene in B2,

SDB1 is the % saponification of B1, and

SDB2 is the % saponification of B2.

Claim 19 (Withdrawn): The process of Claim 18, wherein the particles of B2 dispersed in B1 have a mean particle size of at most 0.8  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 20 (Withdrawn): The process of Claim 18, wherein B1 and B2 have melt indices (in units of g/10 min, measured at 190°C under a load of 2160 g) MIB1 and MIB2, respectively, which satisfy formula (8):

$$0.1 \leq \text{MIB1/MIB2} \leq 10 \quad (8).$$

Claim 21 (Withdrawn): The process of Claim 18, wherein the thermoplastic polyester has an intrinsic viscosity IVA (in units of dl/g) which satisfies the following formula (9) and the mixture of B1 and B2 has a melt index MIB (in units of g/10 min, measured at 190 °C under a load of 2160 g) which satisfies the following formula (10):

$$0.60 \leq \text{IVA} \leq 0.90 \quad (9)$$

$$0.1 \leq \text{MIB} \leq 10 \quad (10).$$

Claim 22 (Withdrawn): The process of Claim 18, wherein the body of said container has a haze value of at most 5 %.